

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01     PRETOR 04594 091842Z  
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00  
ICAIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03  
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 HA-05 TRSE-00  
OMB-01 /092 W  
-----016199 091855Z /47

O R 091810Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2038  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4594

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3  
TAGS: PORG, WA, SF  
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: SAG'S CONCERNS

REF: PRETORIA 4566

1. IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELOR  
YESTERDAY, AUGUST 8, (PRETORIA 4566) FOREIGN MINISTER'S AIDE,  
NEIL VAN HEERDEN, STRESSED: SWAPO'S ALLEGED BUILD-UP ON THE  
ANGOLAN BORDER WITH THE INTENTION TO ESTABLISH A BASE INSIDE  
NAMIBIA; THE SAG'S INFLEXIBILITY ON THE DECEMBER 31 ELECTION  
DEADLINE AND ON THE VOTER REGISTRATION ISSUE; AND ALLEGED US  
FINANCING OF SWAPO TRAVEL ON A ROUTINE BASIS. FOURIE TODAY ALSO  
RAISED ALLEGED UN BIAS IN FAVOR OF SWAPO.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02     PRETOR 04594 091842Z

2. THERE MAY BE SOME REASON TO BELIEVE THAT SWAPO COULD BE  
CONSIDERING DECLARING AT SOME POINT THAT IT POSSESSES BASES INSIDE  
NAMIBIA. AS ONE POSSIBLE INDICATION, LAST MAY SWAPO REPORTEDLY  
ESCORTED A SWEDISH TELEVISION TEAM TO FILM "SWAPO BASES"  
REPUTED TO BE IN OVAMBO. (CAPE TOWN 937.)

3. INTERESTINGLY, THE SAG HAS NOT YET GONE PUBLIC WITH THE INTELLIGENCE REFERRED TO BY VAN HEERDEN OF A SWAPO AND MPLA BUILD-UP ACROSS THE BORDER IN ANGOLA. IF THE SAG WERE CONSIDERING A PREEMPTIVE ATTACK ON THE SWAPO FORCES ACROSS THE BORDER, PRESUMABLY THERE WOULD BE MORE OF A PUBLIC BUILD-UP TO JUSTIFY THE MOVE. (THE PRESENT REPORTS OF ATTACKS ON UTILITIES AND OF OCCASIONAL LANDMINE INCIDENTS WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE CONSIDERED SUFFICIENT.) IF SWAPO SHOULD IN FACT ATTEMPT TO SET UP BASES IN NAMIBIA AFTER FINAL SECURITY COUNCIL APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSAL, IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT THE SAG AT THAT POINT WOULD REFUSE TO WITHDRAW ITS TROOPS OR POSSIBLY EVEN ATTACK THE SWAPO BASES. THE SAG, IN ANY EVENT, MAY BE PREPARING THE WAY FOR SUCH CONTINGENCIES.

4. VAN HEERDEN'S ASSERTIONS ABOUT SAG INFLEXIBILITY ON ELECTIONS BY DECEMBER 31 COULD BE A TACTICAL POSTURE. OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT THE SAG MAY ATTACH GREATER IMPORTANCE TO THE VOTER REGISTRATION ISSUE THAN TO THE QUESTION OF THE ELECTION DATE. PREVIOUSLY, VAN HEERDEN HAD TOLD US THAT HE DID NOT FORESEE ANY DIFFICULTY IN LETTING THE ELECTION (AND INDEPENDENCE) DATE SLIP INTO 1979 (CAPE TOWN 1096).

5. AS NOTED EARLIER (PRETORIA 4478), SCRAPPING THE REGISTRATION PROCEDURES SET OUT BY STEYN WOULD BE CONSIDERED A SIGNIFICANT LOSS OF FACE NOT ONLY FOR STEYN AND THE SAG, BUT ALSO FOR THE DEMOCRATIC TURNHALLE ALLIANCE. CONCEIVABLY THE SAG MIGHT CONTEMPLATE TRADING OFF A DELAY IN THE ELECTION DATE IN RETURN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03     PRETOR 04594 091842Z

FOR AHTISSAARI'S ACCEPTANCE IN LARGE PART OF THE VOTER REGISTRATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY THE AG. THIS IS ONLY SPECULATION HOWEVER, AND WE CAN BY NO MEANS COUNT ON THIS BEING THE CASE.

6. WITH RESPECT TO VAN HEERDEN'S REFLECTION OF SAG CONCERNS ABOUT ALLEGED ROUTINE FINANCING OF SWAPO TRAVEL BY THE US, I SOUGHT TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT DURING MY MEETING WITH FOURIE TODAY (AUGUST 9). (WE SUSPECT, INCIDENTALLY, THAT THE "ISSUE" OF US FINANCING OF SWAPO TRAVEL AND THE SUPPOSED CONGRESSIONAL SOURCE FOR THE SAG'S INFORMATION MAY VERY WELL BE A CREATION OF BOTHAS'. WE RECALL THAT THE FIRST SOUTH AFRICAN MENTION OF THE MATTER WAS BOTHAS' REPORTED ASSERTION AT THE END OF JULY TO THE MEDIA IN NEW YORK THAT THE USG, PRESUMABLY WITH CONGRESSIONAL AWARENESS, HAD FINANCED SWAPO "PRESENCE." PRESUMABLY THE REFERENCE WAS TO SWAPO PRESENCE IN NEW YORK. (PRETORIA 4359.)

7. FOURIE USED THE OCCASION TO SPEAK OF UN FINANCES GOING TO SWAPO. I SAID I WAS NOT AWARE OF UN FUNDS BEING DISBURSED TO SWAPO. WHEN I NOTED FINANCIAL SUPPORT PROVIDED THROUGH THE UN TO THE NAMIBIA INSTITUTE IN LUSAKA DID NOT AMOUNT TO FINANCING SWAPO, FOURIE RESPONDED BY REFERRING TO UN MONEY GOING TO SWAPO REFUGEES.

I REPLIED THAT I WAS NOT AWARE OF ANY UN FUNDS FOR REFUGEES GOING TO SWAPO; MY UNDERSTANDING WAS THAT THE UNHCR PROVIDED NAMIBIAN REFUGEES WITH FOOD AND SHELTER.

8. FOURIE THEN TALKED OF BIASED UN RADIO BROADCASTS, ARGUING THAT THE FIVE HAD URGED THAT THE SABC BE IMPARTIAL WHILE UN BROADCASTS WERE CONSISTENTLY PRO-SWAPO. I SAID I WAS NOT BRIEFED ON UN RADIO BROADCASTS, AND HE RESPONDED THAT THIS WAS PRESUMABLY A MATTER TO BE WORKED OUT BETWEEN STEYN AND AHTISAARI.

9. WE THINK FOURIE KNOWS AND UNDERSTANDS THE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS HE RAISED. HIS REMARKS FLAGGED THE LIKELIHOOD THAT WE WILL HEAR MORE FROM THE SAG ON ALLEGED US AND UN BIAS IN FAVOR OF SWAPO.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04     PRETOR 04594 091842Z

EDMONDSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY BUILDUP, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, LIBERATION FRONTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978PRETOR04594  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** X3  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780326-0280  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** PRETORIA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780882/aaaacqtp.tel  
**Line Count:** 137  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 5de3ea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION IO  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 PRETORIA 4566  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 28 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1791731  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NAMIBIA: SAG'S CONCERNS  
**TAGS:** PORG, WA, SF, SWAPO  
**To:** STATE USUN NEW YORK  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/5de3ea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014